AMATEUR AND COMMERCIAL BROADCASTING AT THE SCHOOL of ENGINEERING

STUDENTS OPERATE AMATEUR STATION

Licensed Amateur Station, call letters W9SO, is operated exclusively by students who are members of the Radio Club. It not only enables them to put into actual practice their radio knowledge acquired in the classroom and laboratory, but it also keeps them constantly aware of the fascination and romance of the modern subject they are studying.

The Station is also a part of the College Radio Union. The purpose of this Union is to promote a closer relation between the college radio clubs of the country, and to broadcast college news, such as results of athletic activities.

Because of its previous wide experience and range, W9SO, the School of Engineering Station, has been chosen as the key station of the Western section -- practically all of the United States west of the Allegheny Mountains, Alaska, the Hawaiian Islands and the Philippine Islands. This area was organized by William P. Gainer, Chief Operator of W9SO. The plan of organization calls for one university or college radio club, in each state, of sufficient power and schedule time, to act as a key station for all the communication of that state. These state key stations are in turn responsible to the section key stations, which together with the Executive Committee at Washington, controls the activities of the Union. A large number of colleges have become members.

W9SO REPORTED PUERTO RICAN HURRICANE and COMMUNICATED with COMMANDER BYRD BASE

W9SO was the first station in the world to receive distress reports from Puerto Rico during the recent hurricane there. Student operators picked up the messages after the Island had been cut off from communication with the outside world for almost 24 hours, receiving the signals sent from a sending set frantically rigged up by the operator at San Juan, Puerto Rico. The message was immediately relayed to Washington, D.C., and on the following day, Admiral T. T. Craven expressed the Navy's appreciation in the following dispatch: "The Chief of Naval Operations desires to express his appreciation of the excellent work done by two of your amateur operators in copying and forwarding a radiogram from Porto Rico. Not only does this show very good operating ability, but the forwarding of the dispatch to the Navy Department indicates excellent initiative".

Station W9SO was also in communication with Commander Byrd's base station in the Antarctic region.

STUDENTS HAVE RADIO CLUB

Centering around W9SO, the students' Radio Club gives further impetus to practical activities. Organized by six licensed amateur operators attending the School, the Club built and now operates the Amateur Station W9SO and is affiliated with the American Radio Relay League, a national organization of amateur stations. With their own isolated club room, "Shack" W9SO, on the roof of the School building, and many of their 40 members owning their individual "Ham" stations, the Club acts as a center for the radio interests of all the students in the course.

OPERATOR'S GOVERNMENT LICENSE

During the period spent in school, the student has ample opportunity to practice code if he desires, and may be well prepared to write the U.S. Government examination for amateur operators. With additional practice in code, graduates who have availed themselves of this opportunity, have had no difficulty in passing the examination for first-class commercial operators.